of the nature referred to in sub-heads (4) and (5), through the activity of the Agricultural Superintendent? I am asked to refer to the *Annual Reports*. It is the duty of the Government to see whether any improvement has been effected.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—The Hon'ble Member's attention is drawn to the several *Annual Reports* placed on the table. If he has not the patience to go through those papers, I am afraid I cannot give him any further information.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—My question was whether the Government was trying to find out whether there was any improvement in agriculture of the nature referred to, and if the Government is aware of the same, I request the necessary answer may be furnished to me.

President.—Do not the *Reports* show all the improvements?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I could not find the same.

Work in the Agricultural Department.

455. Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing.—

(i) The number of requests for advice on Agricultural matters received in the Agricultural Department during the last five years;

(ii) The number of instances in which advice sought for has been given;

(iii) The number of instances in which the advice given was adopted with success;

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—It is not possible to give the information asked for, as no such statistics were maintained by the department.

Deterioration of Agriculture due to the export of fish manure.

456. Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Has the Government ever considered that the agriculturists of the State are put to great difficulty owing to vast export of fish manure from the State? If so, what step has been taken by the Government to stop the same?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Yes. No step was taken in the matter, and the remedy lies with the agriculturists themselves.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—In reply to my question, it has been stated that the matter lies with the agriculturists themselves. May I know what is that step which the Agricultural Department is going to take? Could they not purchase these fish manures and store it?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

President.—Is it the step that is referred to there? What is the step that easily strikes you that the Government should take?

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—I do not know. There are several steps. One is, by means of liberal payment to try to reserve fish manure or to impose an export duty so that the vast export that is conducted now may be discouraged.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—And if there are no local merchants to purchase them?

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—There is a great export of fish manure, and so to put a stop to that some steps should be taken. I ask whether the Government cannot impose an export duty on them.

President.—The question of levying an export duty has not been considered. I do not know whether the Government have any such power to impose export duty. I must ask my Government Advocate.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—My question is, is there any step taken by Government to check the export, because by exporting it local men are unable to purchase it at a moderate price.

President.—It is a commercial problem.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—It is very difficult to answer now. We can consider it later on.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—It is stated that the remedy is with the agriculturists themselves. That is they can purchase it for their own money.

Will the Government be pleased to direct the Agricultural Department to invest an amount of money to deal with the business of purchasing the manure and distributing them to the agriculturists?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—That is impossible.

President.—That is not a supplementary question.

Statistics regarding the export of fish manure.

457. **Mr. I. E. Ambooken.**—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have any statistics to show how much fish guano and other fish manure which have gone out of the State in the last year?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—The answer is in the negative.

The opening of manure depots.

458. **Mr. I. E. Ambooken.**—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they will be pleased to direct the Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats to open manure depots in all villages where there are Panchayats throughout the State?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly